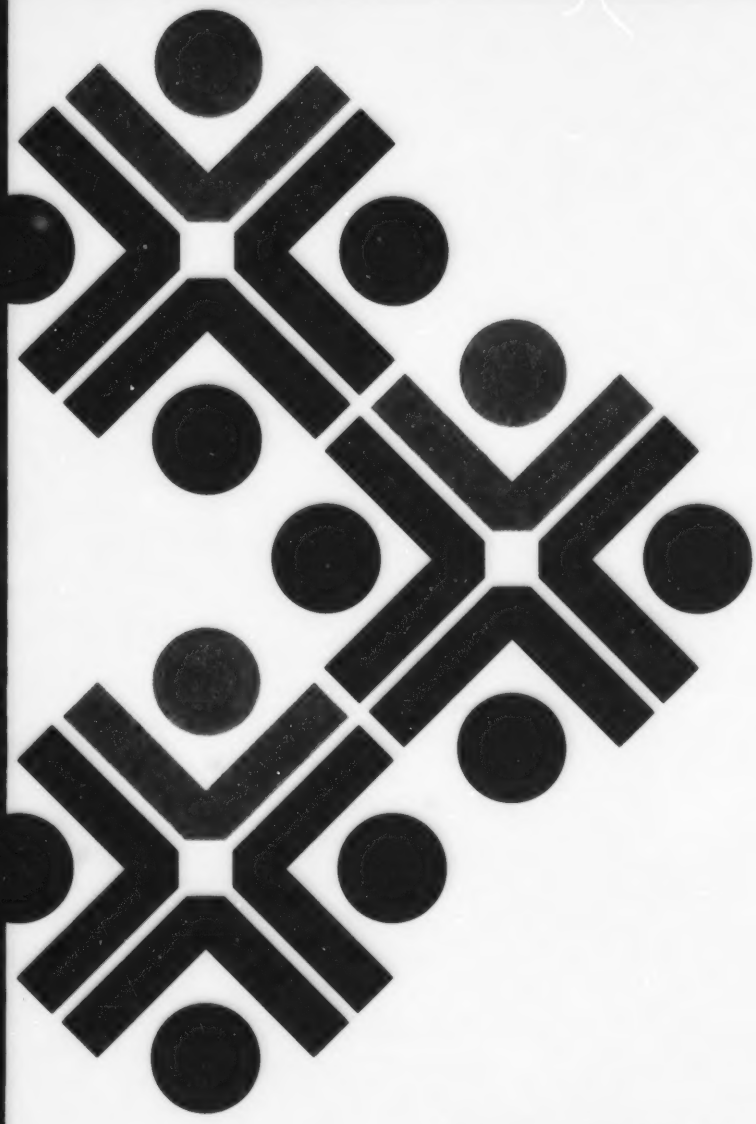

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June 2000

The Honourable Bill Hartley
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Honourable Speaker:

Pursuant to section 13 (1) (a) of the *Election Act*, I have the honour to present the 1999 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Legislative Assembly.

This is the fourth Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer submitted under the *Election Act*, and covers the period January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

R A Patterson

Robert A. Patterson
Chief Electoral Officer

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Elections British Columbia.

Annual report. — 1997

Annual.

Title from cover.

ISSN 1480-3100 = Annual report - Elections British Columbia

1. Elections British Columbia - Periodicals. 2. Elections - British Columbia - Periodicals. I. Title. II. Title: Elections BC ... annual report.

JL438.E43 353.4'8 C97-960306-4

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CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER'S MESSAGE

In 1999 this Office administered a by-election and one recall petition as well as investigations into allegations of unreported spending in earlier recall campaigns.

It was also the first year in which Elections BC undertook a province-wide enumeration campaign utilizing mail and advertising instead of door-to-door enumerators. This change was made to address a number of concerns, including cost and safety issues.

With 20 to 25 per cent of eligible voters moving each year, keeping the Provincial Voters List current presents a unique challenge. Electoral events are not calendared in British Columbia; governments are elected for terms not to exceed five years, but can call a general election at any time during their term. The additional pressure of uncalendared recall and initiative petitions requires this Office to keep the Voters List event-ready at all times.

The cost of a door-to-door enumeration has become prohibitive, estimated to be in the order of $14 million. I felt this cost could not be justified for a "snapshot" of the electorate. The quality of the resulting list would begin to deteriorate immediately. Many people, especially in urban areas, are reluctant to open their doors to strangers. Additionally, the personal safety of enumerators themselves is a growing concern.

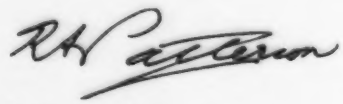
Clearly, a perpetual process of updating and confirming voter registrations is required. Accordingly, this Office issued voter registration confirmation cards, complete with change of address forms, to prompt voters to keep their registration information current.

In order to maintain the currency of the list, Elections BC will continue to work with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) and other provincial agencies, the Government of Canada and individual municipalities to update voter registration data. Ongoing public education programs, registration events and advertising will also help ensure the Voters List remains event-ready.

Our event readiness will be further enhanced with the hiring of a new Director of Electoral Operations. This most recent recruitment completes the corporate restructuring that commenced in 1996 in response to the new *Election Act* and *Recall and Initiative Act*.

My work with the Electoral Boundaries Commission concluded in 1999 with recommendations for new electoral boundaries to come into effect at the next general election. Our Electoral Geography Division has been developing the means to view data related with past, current and pending electoral boundaries. This will provide the data structure, information processing capabilities and supporting technology to rapidly implement boundary modifications to Voting Areas and Electoral Districts.

Much progress was made on our new Electoral Information System. The new systems package will support our need to always be "event ready" in a more cost-effective manner. Working groups were established to develop business rules for this unprecedented corporate project. The first components of our new EIS package will be delivered early in the new year, with the entire system on line by the end of 2000.



Robert A. Patterson
Chief Electoral Officer

About Elections BC

Elections BC is the non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for the impartial administration of Provincial electoral events and referendums, recalls and initiatives. The Office is also responsible for the maintenance of the Provincial Voters List and voter education.

Elections BC's mission is:

> **"To serve the people of British Columbia by ensuring the effective and impartial administration of the electoral process."**

Elections BC's corporate objectives are to:

- maintain a high state of electoral readiness
- ensure electoral events are conducted in a fair and impartial manner
- ensure all qualified voters have the opportunity to vote
- increase public awareness of the electoral process.

Our guiding principles are:

- respecting the rule of law
- working with integrity and openness
- upholding the democratic rights of British Columbians.

Staff at Elections BC are dedicated to facilitating the democratic process, continually building on the quantity and quality of election-related information made available to the public. The organization prides itself in operating with fairness and impartiality, while respecting individual differences and individual rights.

New Electoral District Boundaries

Electoral district boundaries are reviewed after every second general election to ensure that each Member of the Legislative Assembly represents approximately the same number of people.

This review is conducted by a three-member Commission established under the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, which requires that the Chief Electoral Officer be a member of the Commission.

The Commission's recommendations were set out in a report submitted to the Legislature December 3, 1998. The recommendations included increasing the number of electoral districts to 79 from the current 75 to compensate for population growth in the Lower Mainland.

Amendments to the report were presented to the Legislature on June 3, 1999. Four new electoral districts were recommended: two in Surrey, one in the area of Burnaby and Coquitlam, and one in the eastern Fraser Valley. The amendments also recommended significant realignment of boundaries in the Parksville and Nanaimo area on Vancouver Island and in the Okanagan and West Kootenay region. All but five of the remaining districts had minor boundary adjustments.

The Legislative Assembly voted on June 14, 1999 to adopt Motion 65 which recommended the acceptance of the Electoral Boundaries Commission's Report as submitted. On July 8th, Bill 96 to replace the current *Electoral Districts Act* received first reading. Members of the Legislative Assembly had an opportunity to comment on the specific boundary recommendations and raise any specific concerns from their constituents when the Bill was brought forward at the various stages of debate. Subsequently, the new *Electoral Districts Act*, accepting all the Commission's recommendations, received Royal Assent on July 15, 1999.

The new electoral districts take effect on the day that the 36th Parliament is dissolved.

Consequential Amendments arising from Electoral District Redistribution

Election Act

When the *Electoral Districts Act* received Royal Assent on July 15, 1999, a number of consequential amendments to the *Election Act* were required to allow a smooth transition to new electoral districts.

The *Election Act* had required that each constituency association submit an audited financial report when deregistered, a substantial inconvenience and expense to organizations that were automatically deregistered as a result of the disestablishment of their associated electoral district. The Act was amended to remove the audit requirement in this instance. This, however, does not preclude the Chief Electoral Officer from requesting an audit.

District Electoral Officers and Deputy District Electoral Officers can now be appointed for future electoral districts. This will allow for proper training of electoral officers and election planning. It also provides for the rescission of appointments of officials whose positions will become redundant when their ridings are permanently disestablished at the time new electoral district boundaries come into force.

Standing nominations filed for current electoral districts may be cancelled, and the $100 nomination deposit returned. As well, standing nominations can be accepted for future electoral districts that will be established upon issuance of Writs.

Recall and Initiative Act, Constitution Act, Electoral Boundaries Commission Act

If an initiative petition is in progress when new electoral districts take effect, the previous boundaries will apply for the purposes of the initiative petition.

In the *Constitution Act* and *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, references to a specific number of electoral districts and MLAs have been

replaced with a reference to the *Electoral Districts Act*. This will eliminate the need for future amendments to these Acts as a result of subsequent redistributions.

Recall and Initiative Regulations

Section 171 of the *Recall and Initiative Act* allows for Regulations to establish the procedures for verification of signatures on petitions under this Act.

Two amending Regulations were made in December, 1999. Under previous Regulations, signatures used in the petition verification process were limited to those provided on voter registration applications. The amendments expand the sources of signatures to include voting books, Elections BC voter confirmation cards and other records maintained by this office.

Inter-jurisdictional Sharing

Local Government Use of the Provincial Voters List

Seventy-five local governments used extracts from the Provincial Voters List as a basis for their own Voters Lists for use at the November, 1999 municipal elections. These 75 local governments represent about 90% of the population of the Province. Approximately one-third of these local governments also chose to use Elections BC's voter registration forms. Registration updates provided to those local governments during their elections were subsequently forwarded to Elections BC for updating the Provincial Voters List.

Data-Sharing with Elections Canada

Under a data-sharing agreement with Elections Canada, Elections BC shares voter registration updates gathered through sources such as the Motor Voter Program. This data is used by Elections Canada for updating the National Register of Electors. Access to and use of this data by

Elections BC and Elections Canada is restricted by both provincial and federal legislation. Elections BC cannot receive updates from Elections Canada (which obtains address updates through income tax filings) because our Voters List is used by government for more than strictly electoral purposes, for example the creation of jury selection lists.

Advisory Committee to the National Register of Electors

The Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia joined the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada in June, 1999 as co-chair of the Advisory Committee to the National Register of Electors. The committee serves as a forum for discussion and input to Elections Canada's initiatives regarding data quality, security, time lines and processes.

Its first meeting was held in Ottawa in September, 1999. In addition to the two Chief Electoral Officers, the Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the provinces of Québec and Newfoundland, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Vital Statistics Council for Canada (VSCC) and the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA).

International

Workshops for Election Observers

In June, 1999 we welcomed to our Victoria office seven local residents who were members of a delegation preparing to observe state elections in Nayarit, Mexico. The observer group asked Elections BC to provide them with an overview of the fundamental principles of a free and democratic electoral process, and the key elements necessary to satisfy themselves that an election is conducted in a fair and credible manner. The delegation also asked for guidance on what types of voting irregularities and electoral fraud they as observers should be aware of, and how to appropriately respond should such an incident arise.

Elections BC received a similar request in October, 1999, and provided a briefing to a five-person delegation called "Building Bridges in

Guatemala". The delegation's mandate was to observe the November 7th national elections in that country.

Australian Visitors

Elections BC was privileged to host a delegation from the Australian Electoral Commission, here in late June to learn how this Office works with other government agencies to obtain current voter information.

The Australian Electoral Commission had expressed interest in learning more about federal/provincial cooperation, ongoing voter registration projects such as Motor Voter, and the Recall and Initiative Verification System (RIVERS) which is used to verify signatures on recall and initiative petitions.

Paul Dacey, Assistant Commissioner, Elections and Enrolment, Australian Electoral Commission; Bob Longland, Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland (AEC); Dr. Ken Evans, Electoral Commissioner, Western Australia Electoral Commission; and Janet Taylor, Executive Secretary of the Electoral Council of Australia visited Elections BC's Victoria headquarters.

Staff provided presentations on how this Office receives address updates from ICBC, the challenges we face in changing from 75 to 79 electoral districts at the next election, discussed ongoing voter registration programs and demonstrated our signature verification process for recall petitions.

Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer observe Australian Referendum

In November, at the invitation of the Australian Electoral Commission, the Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer travelled to Canberra, Australia to observe the national Constitutional Referendum on whether Australia should become a republic.

Elections officials from 13 countries participated in a study group which observed how the Electoral Commission undertook this unique electoral

event. The objective was to observe "best practices" first hand in a variety of election-related activities.

The agenda included: voter registration and voters list updating; voting official recruitment and training; voter information and education; materiel and supplies logistics; voting place selection, access and set-up; results tallying and publication; and information technology. The participants also visited district electoral offices and numerous voting places on referendum day, observing the opening and closing of voting locations and the counting of the ballots.

South African Delegation

Four representatives of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) visited Elections BC's Victoria office on September 27th and 28th: Jan de Waal, Director, Administration – North West Province; Geraldene Chaplog Louw, Director, Political Party Funding; Anton Venter, Director, Legal Services; and Leonard Mavuso, Director, Recruitment and Training.

The delegation was interested in all aspects of electoral administration. As they will administer next year's municipal elections in South Africa, a visit was arranged to the Municipality of Oak Bay, where Mayor Chris Cawston spoke on the role of the candidate. Dr. Michel Janisse, Director of Co-operative Education for the University of Victoria, discussed the concept of co-operative education and Harry Neufeld and Amanda Gray of EDS Systemhouse presented a briefing on the development of Elections BC's Electoral Information System. Elections BC's Voter Registration and Systems Divisions made presentations on the Provincial Voters List System (PVLS) and its updating links, and the Recall and Initiative Verification System (RIVERS). The Electoral Geography Division discussed electoral district and voting area redistribution and provided a demonstration of its computer-based boundary management system.

Khalsa Diwan Society

The Khalsa Diwan Society operates the Victoria Sikh Temple. In December, 1998, the Supreme Court of British Columbia issued an Order calling for a list of returning officers in the Greater Victoria area who have experience running provincial or federal elections, and who the Khalsa Diwan Society of Victoria might contact to determine their interest in independently conducting an election of officers for the Society. From the roster supplied by Elections BC, Patricia MacLean, Elections BC's District Electoral Officer for Oak Bay-Gordon Head, was selected to conduct the March 27, 1999 election of officers for the Society.

Corporate Restructuring

During 1999, Elections BC continued to refine the job descriptions of permanent staff to ensure efficient, effective distribution of duties and responsibilities in accordance with the corporate restructuring which commenced in 1996.

A new Manager, Corporate Communications joined Elections BC in mid-January.

During the year, appointments were also made to the positions of Manager, Finance and Administration, and Manager, Electoral Finance.

The position of Director, Electoral Operations was filled in mid-June. A subsequent vacancy in that position resulted in a new competition, and the successful candidate will assume the duties early in 2000.

Terms and conditions of employment for our many temporary staff were also reviewed and revised.

The restructuring project is being conducted in consultation with a human resources contractor and the Public Service Employee Relations Commission.

Social Science Co-op Students

Three University of Victoria students joined Elections BC from April until August for their co-operative education work terms under the University's Social Sciences/Geography Co-op Program. Their projects included researching and drafting a report on the administration of recall legislation, and compilation of data on the Province's electoral districts to assist with the operational aspects of electoral district redistribution.

Voter Registration

The Provincial Voters List System (PVLS) contains British Columbia's register of the names, birthdates and residential and mailing addresses of registered voters. The majority of this data is supplied directly to Elections BC by the Province's voters.

Data is collected daily by District Registrars of Voters and their Deputies and entered onto the system in Elections BC's regional offices. Elections BC is continually looking for ways to increase the currency, completeness and accuracy of the Voters List, and for leveling out the 'peaks and valleys' of activity during and between elections.

The volume of transactions performed on the Provincial Voters List System increased from approximately 600,000 in 1998 to over 1,800,000 in 1999. This included new voter registrations, deletions, changes of name and address information (including changes to postal information and postal codes).

The "Motor Voter Program", in which address changes to drivers' licence records are provided to Elections BC, generated approximately 276,000 updates to the Voters List, an increase from approximately 170,000 the previous year. The *Election Act* permits the sharing of Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's drivers' address data for this purpose. Elections BC continues to work to maximize the number of Voters List updates from the Motor Voter Program.

Voters who want to register to vote, or who wish to verify or update their registration, may contact any Elections BC or Government Agent office.

Voter registration is also available in conjunction with any voting opportunity.

Enumeration 1999

General enumerations are required by the *Election Act* in the third calendar year after a general election. An enumeration may be by a door-to-door visitation or by another method authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer. The 1999 enumeration was conducted by a phased series of mailings.

A pre-enumeration phase began in March of 1999. Envelopes marked, "We are Missing You", were sent to approximately 192,000 residential addresses where there were no voters registered. The mailing was supported by a print and broadcast advertising campaign at the end of March inviting all voters to call our toll-free line to confirm or update their voter registration data. Approximately 42,000 updates to the Provincial Voters List, including 24,000 new voters, were generated as a result of this mailing.

The enumeration phase commenced on the first Monday in May, by sending enumeration packages to the 1.5 million registered voters who had not confirmed or updated their registration data since April, 1998. The enumeration packages asked each voter to confirm or update their voter registration information. Packages were sent in eight regional mailings between May and the end of June. Almost one million voters have registered, confirmed or updated their voter registration since the mailing of the enumeration packages in May, 1999.

Voters whose information was up-to-date could confirm their voter registration simply by signing and returning a confirmation card in the postage-paid envelope provided. Voters needing to update their name or address information could do so by returning a completed registration card, and unregistered voters could use the registration card provided to have their name added to the Voters List. A toll-free telephone service with extended hours was available and voters could confirm or update their address by calling the toll-free number. Registration inquiries and

updates were also generated through the Elections BC Website and by email from voters.

In October, 1999, Elections BC mailed 1.3 million voter registration confirmation cards to those voters who had responded to their enumeration package or had otherwise registered, confirmed or updated their registration information since April, 1998. A second mailing of registration confirmation cards will take place early in 2000.

Delta South By-election

On November 9, 1999, pursuant to Order in Council 1529, a Writ of Election was issued by the Chief Electoral Officer to P. Janice Cook, District Electoral Officer for Delta South. The Writ specified Tuesday, December 7, 1999 as General Voting Day.

This office had received the Speaker's Warrant on July 12, 1999 advising the Chief Electoral Officer of the vacancy in the membership of the Legislative Assembly resulting from the death of Fred Gingell, MLA for Delta South.

Enumeration activity and processing of voter records were accelerated in preparation for the Order to issue the Writ of Election for this by-election. Voter registration centres were established at five locations with high pedestrian traffic. The centres opened a short time after the Writ was issued and remained open until November 16, 1999 (Day 7).

Voter Registration Activity:

- Number of Registered Voters on Writ Day (Day 0) 28,576
- Number of Registered Voters at Close of General Registration (Day 7) 28,813
- Number of Registered Voters at Close of General Voting (Day 28) 29,734

Under section 41 of the *Election Act*, qualified individuals could register to vote or update their voter registration at all voting opportunities. There

were 1,148 voter registration transactions completed at the time of voting, resulting in 921 new registrations and 227 updates to the Voters List for the Delta South electoral district.

One standing nomination was filed with the Chief Electoral Officer under section 57 of the *Election Act*. Nominations subsequently filed under section 56 of the Act were accepted by the District Electoral Officer from 9:00 a.m. on November 15, 1999 (Day 6) until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 24, 1999 (Day 15). At the close of nominations, six additional candidates had filed with the District Electoral Officer for a total of seven candidates. Six candidates were endorsed by registered political parties and one candidate filed as independent.

Advance Voting was available at two locations from Wednesday, December 1st to Saturday, December 4th. Nine hundred and twenty-two voters cast their ballots during the Advance Voting period. For the election, 17,778 voters, or 59.78% of registered voters, turned out to vote.

The *Election Act* requires a 12-day delay between General Voting and Final Count for a general election, however, at a by-election the Chief Electoral Officer can allow Final Count to occur earlier as there are no Absentee Votes cast outside the electoral district. The Chief Electoral Officer made an Order authorizing the District Electoral Officer to commence Final Count on December 13, 1999, the sixth day after General Voting Day.

Val Roddick, the candidate endorsed by the BC Liberal Party, was declared elected and the Writ of Election was returned on December 21, 1999. The following day, the Chief Electoral Officer certified to the Speaker the election of Ms. Roddick as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Delta South.

District Electoral Officer Appointments and Training

A consequential amendment to the *Election Act* permitted the appointment of District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Deputy District

Electoral Officers (DDEOs) to future electoral districts resulting from redistribution. This pre-appointment process allows for the training of these officials prior to an election.

Many of the DEOs and DDEOs appointed to the current 75 electoral districts were re-appointed, however, a number of new appointees were required. Resumés from interested individuals were reviewed by Elections BC staff, and a full roster of appointments was completed in time for orientation training in October.

A three-day training Conference was held in Richmond during the first week of October for all DEOs, DDEOs and a number of Elections BC staff.

The first day was designed specifically to introduce new appointees to Elections BC's organization, mandate, and business cycle, and communicate the standards and expectations for senior election officials. Other topics of discussion included our political system and electoral legislation, and an overview of voting opportunities.

All DEOs and their Deputies attended the second and third days of the Conference. Workshops were conducted on the training of voting officials, voting place selection and set-up, the effects of electoral district redistribution, administration and financial management, communications issues such as media relations, public information and advertising, as well as the nomination process, and ballot printing, distribution and counting.

Recall – Electoral District of Port Coquitlam

On May 20, 1999, Recall Petition R99001-PCT was issued to Proponent, Mark Francioli, for the recall of the Honourable Michael Farnworth, the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the electoral district of Port Coquitlam. The petition was scheduled for return to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer on July 19, 1999.

The recall petition, submitted by the Proponent on that date, contained 'zero' signatures and Recall Petition R99001-PCT was therefore declared

unsuccessful. The Proponent's and Member's financing reports, which were due to be filed no later than August 16, 1999, are contained in Appendix C.

Initiatives

This office regularly responds to inquiries regarding the initiative process. During 1999, no initiative petitions were applied for or issued.

Electoral Information System (EIS)

In order to more effectively meet our mandate, Elections BC entered into a contract with EDS Systemhouse in April, 1999 for a complete Electoral Information System (EIS) which will encompass all business functions of our organization.

EDS was the successful bidder on a Request for Proposal in the previous year. Seven Elections BC Working Groups, with specific areas of expertise and business interest, began meetings with EDS in early May for the analysis phase of the project.

The financial reporting forms for registered political parties, registered constituency associations, candidates, election advertisers and leadership contestants were changed in December, 1999 to accommodate the new electronic filing component of EIS.

The first components of the new system will be introduced to Elections BC in the spring of 2000.

1998 Annual Financial Reports

Section 207 of the *Election Act* requires all registered political parties and registered constituency associations to file annual financial reports by March 31 of the following year. At December 31, 1998, there were 24 political parties and 139 constituency associations registered with Elections BC. All registered organizations, except one, filed their annual financial reports.

One political party, The Voters Choice/Direct Democracy Party of BC, failed to file a report and consequently was deregistered.

Leadership Convention for the Reform Party of British Columbia

The Reform Party of British Columbia held a leadership convention in November, 1999. Bill Vander Zalm, the party president, was elected leader by acclamation.

Mr. Vander Zalm's leadership contest financing reports required by section 211 of the *Election Act* were filed with Elections BC in January, 2000.

Assistance Provided to Elections Manitoba

In January 1999, the Director of Electoral Finance spent three weeks in Winnipeg assisting Elections Manitoba to prepare for an anticipated general election. Activities included the sharing of expertise on the administration of electoral finance generally, and more particularly, the drafting of Guidelines for Candidates' Official Agents and Guidelines for Auditors.

Communications

The Communications Division is responsible for ensuring the general public is aware of all activities undertaken by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Division manages communications activities to ensure effective two-way communication between Elections BC and the general public, news media as well as other levels and agencies of government. In addition, the Division coordinates special voter registration opportunities, advertising and a variety of information brochures and reports. The coordinated, combined activities of the "empty address" mailing, the 'Are You on the Provincial Voters List?' householder, Enumeration '99, and the Voter Registration Confirmation Card

campaign resulted in almost one million confirmations and updates to the Provincial Voters List.

Communications also provides training for Elections BC staff to emphasize the importance of assisting the media and the public in their enquiries regarding the responsibilities and authority of this independent Office of the Legislature.

Core Activities in 1999:

- Facilitated the transparency of the electoral process through posting election-related financial statements as well as Statements of Votes on the Elections BC Website.
- Staged special registration opportunities at the Pacific National Exhibition and the University of Victoria.

Pacific National Exhibition

For the first time since 1981, Elections BC was present at the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) in Vancouver from August 20th to September 6th. The booth was staffed by regular Elections BC employees from all divisions, locations and levels of the organization. With laptop computers, staff were online with the Elections BC Provincial Voters List System allowing voter records to be confirmed or updated on the spot. Over 4,500 confirmations, additions and address changes were made to the Voters List.

Although the focus was on voter registration, staff also provided information on electoral district redistribution, nomination procedures and the recall and initiative processes. It provided a point of access for groups of individuals who are traditionally under-represented on the Voters List, especially young adults between the ages of 18 and 25, and gave Elections BC an opportunity to listen to public concerns and to evaluate our profile with British Columbia's voters.

Conference of Canadian Election Officials

With an electoral office in each province and territory, Canadian electoral officials have developed a tradition of sharing new ideas and best practices. In fact, Canadian election officials have met annually for more than 25 years, most recently in Ottawa last June.

British Columbia's Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and Director of Electoral Operations attended the 1999 conference. Senior federal, provincial and territorial election administrators shared information on jurisdictional activities, including legal and policy issues, administrative and operational matters, and international electoral activities.

The Deputy Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia gave a presentation on the requirement of a permanent Voters List to support our unique recall and initiative legislation, and the challenges of keeping such a list "event ready" at all times. Other topics of discussion were inter-jurisdictional sharing of voter registration data, redistribution of electoral district boundaries, electronic voting and voter identification.

International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT)

The Chief Electoral Officer, a member of the Board of Directors, travelled to Scottsdale, Arizona in early January to take part in IACREOT's Mid-winter Meeting and Education program. Long-range planning, budgets and audits were among the topics of discussion.

The Director of the Systems Division and the Manager, Corporate Communications accompanied the Chief Electoral Officer on a subsequent trip to Scottsdale in mid-July for IACREOT's 28th Annual Conference, Trade Show and Educational Program. They attended sessions on voter fraud, professional ethics, disaster recovery planning, electronic communications, and Y2K preparedness.

The trade show held in conjunction with the conference provides a means of maintaining an awareness of advances in technology relevant to electoral administration.

Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)

The annual COGEL conference provides an international forum for exchange on significant developments and trends in governmental ethics, elections, campaign finance, conflict of interest and lobby law. Elections BC is a long-standing member, with the Chief Electoral Officer elected to participate directly on the Steering Committee from 1997 through 1999 inclusive.

Elections BC's Director of Electoral Finance attended the annual COGEL conference in Providence, Rhode Island in early December, 1999, to participate on a panel on third party advertising. The conference agenda included items concerning freedom of information and protection of privacy, independent expenditures and third party advocacy, campaign finance and ethics updates, and a comparison of voting methods.

Legislative Interns

Each year the Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer brief the Legislative Interns on the history and role of Elections BC. The presentation provides an opportunity for the interns to learn about the mandate of this office and its lines of business, and to meet and question the two senior officials responsible for administering the broad range of legislation and programs within the scope of Elections BC.

Withdrawal of Court Challenge of the Recall and Initiative Act

In June of 1999, the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) withdrew its challenge to the constitutionality of the recall provisions in the *Recall and Initiative Act*. In this challenge, launched in May of 1998, the BCCLA

claimed the Act is *ultra vires* of the Province and infringed on section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* – the citizen's right to vote.

Pacific Press v. Attorney General of BC and Garry Nixon v. Attorney General of BC

This case involves two separate constitutional challenges brought by Pacific Press, a Division of Southam Inc., and Garry Nixon, a British Columbia resident. Pacific Press challenges the constitutionality of the $5,000.00 limit on third party spending in the British Columbia *Election Act* and the requirement for the publication of methodological information with all opinion polls. Mr. Nixon challenges only the third party spending limits. The trial concluded in mid-August and the judge reserved decision.

Although this case has significant administrative implications for Elections BC, this office was not involved in this trial.

Friesen et al v. Hammell et al

The action continues before the Court, however, this Office's direct involvement has concluded.

In August, 1996 three voters from three different electoral districts filed a Petition under section 150 of the *Election Act* for a declaration that the elections of three New Democratic Party Members at the May, 1996 general election be declared invalid. The Petition alleges that the candidates used fraudulent means to persuade voters to vote for them, citing campaign commentary on the state of the provincial budget.

APPENDICES

Appendix A
Political Parties

Registered Political Parties as at December 31, 1999

Accountability British Columbia Party
Alliance of Concerned Taxpayers
B.C. Conservative Party
BC First Alliance Association
British Columbia Social Credit Party
British Columbia Liberal Party
Citizens Commonwealth Federation
Coalition British Columbia
Communist Party of B.C.
Green Party Political Association of British Columbia
Labour Welfare Party
Natural Law Party
New Democratic Party of B.C.
Party of Citizens Who Have Decided To Think For Themselves And Be Their Own Politicians
People's Front
Real Democracy Association of BC
Reform Party of British Columbia
The Alternative Party
The British Columbia Party
The Enterprise Party of British Columbia
The Family Coalition Party of British Columbia
United British Columbia Association
Western Canada Concept Party of B.C.

Deregistered During 1999 for Failure to File 1998 Annual Financial Report

The Voters Choice/Direct Democracy Party of BC

Deregistered Voluntarily During 1999

Consensual Democratic Party of British Columbia
Progressive Democratic Alliance

Appendix B
Constituency Associations

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1999

Abbotsford NDP Constituency Association
Abbotsford Social Credit Constituency Association
Alberni NDP Constituency Association
Bulkley Valley-Stikine Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia
Bulkley Valley-Stikine NDP Constituency Association
Bulkley Valley-Stikine Social Credit Constituency Association
Burnaby North NDP Constituency Association
Burnaby North Social Credit Constituency Association
Burnaby-Edmonds NDP Constituency Association
Burnaby-Edmonds Social Credit Constituency Association
Burnaby-Willingdon NDP Constituency Association
Burnaby-Willingdon Social Credit Constituency Association
Cariboo North Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia
Cariboo North NDP Constituency Association
Cariboo North Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Cariboo North Social Credit Constituency Association
Cariboo South Green Party Constituency Association
Cariboo South NDP Constituency Association
Chilliwack NDP Constituency Association
Chilliwack Social Credit Constituency Association
Columbia River-Revelstoke NDP Constituency Association
Comox Valley Accountability BC Constituency Association
Comox Valley NDP Constituency Association
Coquitlam-Maillardville NDP Constituency Association
Coquitlam-Maillardville Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Cowichan-Ladysmith NDP Constituency Association
Delta North Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Delta North NDP Constituency Association
Delta South Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Delta South NDP Constituency Association
Delta South Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Delta South Social Credit Constituency Association
Esquimalt-Metchosin NDP Constituency Association
Fort Langley-Aldergrove NDP Constituency Association
Fort Langley-Aldergrove Social Credit Constituency Association

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1999 (continued)

Kamloops NDP Constituency Association
Kamloops Social Credit Constituency Association
Kamloops-North Thompson NDP Constituency Association
Kamloops-North Thompson Social Credit Constituency Association
Kootenay NDP Constituency Association
Kootenay Social Credit Constituency Association
Langley NDP Constituency Association
Langley Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Langley Social Credit Constituency Association
Malahat-Juan de Fuca NDP Constituency Association
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows NDP Constituency Association
Matsqui NDP Constituency Association
Mission-Kent NDP Constituency Association
Nanaimo NDP Constituency Association
Nelson-Creston Green Party Constituency Association
Nelson-Creston NDP Constituency Association
New Westminster NDP Constituency Association
New Westminster Social Credit Constituency Association
North Coast NDP Constituency Association
North Coast Social Credit Constituency Association
North Island NDP Constituency Association
North Vancouver-Lonsdale NDP Constituency Association
North Vancouver-Lonsdale Social Credit Constituency Association
North Vancouver-Seymour NDP Constituency Association
Oak Bay-Gordon Head NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan East NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan East Social Credit Constituency Association
Okanagan West NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan West Social Credit Constituency Association
Okanagan-Boundary NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan-Boundary Social Credit Constituency Association
Okanagan-Penticton Green Party Constituency Association
Okanagan-Penticton NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan-Vernon NDP Constituency Association
Parksville-Qualicum NDP Constituency Association
Peace River North Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia
Peace River North NDP Constituency Association
Peace River North Social Credit Constituency Association
Peace River South Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1999 (continued)

Peace River South NDP Constituency Association
Peace River South Social Credit Constituency Association
Port Coquitlam NDP Constituency Association
Port Moody-Burnaby Mountain NDP Constituency Association
Powell River-Sunshine Coast Constituency Association
Green Party Political Association of British Columbia
Powell River-Sunshine Coast NDP Constituency Association
Powell River-Sunshine Coast Social Credit Constituency Association
Prince George North Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia
Prince George North Green Party of British Columbia Constituency Association
Prince George North NDP Constituency Association
Prince George-Mount Robson Constituency Association
Reform Party of British Columbia
Prince George-Mount Robson NDP Constituency Association
Prince George-Mount Robson Social Credit Constituency Association
Prince George-Omineca Constituency Association
Reform Party of British Columbia
Prince George-Omineca NDP Constituency Association
Richmond Centre NDP Constituency Association
Richmond Centre Social Credit Constituency Association
Richmond East NDP Constituency Association
Richmond East Social Credit Constituency Association
Richmond-Steveston NDP Constituency Association
Richmond-Steveston Social Credit Constituency Association
Rossland-Trail NDP Constituency Association
Rossland-Trail Social Credit Constituency Association
Saanich North and the Islands Green Party Constituency Association
Saanich North and the Islands NDP Constituency Association
Saanich South BC Liberal Constituency Association
Saanich South NDP Constituency Association
Shuswap NDP Constituency Association
Shuswap Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Shuswap Social Credit Constituency Association
Skeena NDP Constituency Association
Skeena Social Credit Constituency Association
Surrey-Cloverdale Green Party Constituency Association
Surrey-Cloverdale NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-Green Timbers NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-Newton NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-Whalley Constituency Association BC Social Credit Party

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1999 (continued)

Surrey-Whalley Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Surrey-Whalley NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-White Rock NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Burrard NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Burrard Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Fraserview NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Fraserview Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Hastings NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Hastings Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kensington NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kensington Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kingsway NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kingsway Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Langara NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Langara Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Little Mountain NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Little Mountain Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Point Grey NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Point Grey Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena Green Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena Social Credit Constituency Association
Victoria-Beacon Hill Green Party Constituency Association
Victoria-Beacon Hill NDP Constituency Association
Victoria-Hillside NDP Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Capilano NDP Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Capilano Social Credit Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Garibaldi NDP Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Garibaldi Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Garibaldi Social Credit Constituency Association
Yale-Lillooet NDP Constituency Association
Yale-Lillooet Social Credit Constituency Association

Voluntarily Deregistered During 1999

Bulkley Valley-Stikine Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia
Cariboo South Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Kamloops Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Kamloops-North Thompson Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Nanaimo Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Prince George North Constituency Association Reform Party of British Columbia
Vancouver-Fraserview Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Fraserview Green Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Langara Family Coalition Party Constituency Association

Appendix C
Port Coquitlam Recall Financial Reports

	Mike Farnworth MLA $	Mark Richard Francioli Proponent $
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	368
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	25	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	**25**	**368**
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	**25**	**368**
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-
Brochures and Signs	-	50
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	-	-
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	-	-
Office Supplies and Postage	-	-
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	-
Professional Services	25	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	268
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	**25**	**368**
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	25	50
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	-	318
Other Expenses	-	-

Appendix D
Election Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting of the Election Advisory Committee
September 14, 1999
Vancouver, British Columbia

Attending

Committee Representatives (alpha by Party):

British Columbia New Democratic Party: Bruce Ralston, Ron Stipp

Green Party Political Association of B.C.: Julian West

Liberal Party of British Columbia: R. Hector MacKay-Dunn, Jim Pipe

Elections BC: Robert A. Patterson, Chief Electoral Officer; Linda M. Johnson, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer; M. Nola Western, CA, Director, Electoral Finances; Kenneth D. Maskell, Director, Voter Registration; Chris K. Roberts, Electoral Geography Manager; Peter Cech, Communications Manager; Linda Stagg, Secretary to the Chief Electoral Officer

Administration

Mr. Patterson called the meeting to order and reviewed the role of the Committee with the representatives.

Ms. Johnson presented an overview of Elections BC's new Electoral Information System (EIS). Elections BC has contracted with EDS Systemhouse for a re-work of the organization's computer infrastructure, including the development of financial filing software. The current computerized provincial voters list system (PVLS) dates back to the early 1980s and has had a number of subsystems added. After an extensive process of development of a systems plan, real business needs were identified that could only be addressed by a new system.

EIS will have seven components:

1) the provincial Voters List

2) boundaries management

3) an address register

4) a support system for District Electoral Officers (DEOs), including a payroll component, as election workers are no longer exempt from federal payroll deductions

5) client communications, for production of public information materials

6) administrative information

7) electronic filing of financial reports

This is a three-stage project. Stage 1, scheduled for completion in April 2000, includes boundaries management, the address register and the DEOs' support system. Stage 2, to be completed by September, 2000, will include client communications, voter registration and introduction of electronic filing to registered political parties. Stage 3, completed by December, 2000, will be more internal to Elections BC with the 'handover' of the system from the contractor.

Ms. Western expressed optimism about electronic filing of campaign financing reports, pointing out that sub-contractor SDR is the industry leader for electronic campaign filing software. The software will allow registered political parties, registered constituency associations, candidates, third party advertisers, leadership contestants and auditors to file electronically over the Internet, by modem, or by diskette. Volunteers from registered parties will be sought for *beta* testing, probably next summer.

Mr. Ralston asked if changes to legislation are required to accommodate electronic filing, and if the information will be posted in the public domain as soon as it is filed. Ms. Western replied that no legislative changes are required; however, new forms will have to be regulated. Further, Elections BC will hold the information in a secure database and release all filed information at the same time.

Mr. Ralston questioned the procedure if someone chose to file on paper. Ms. Western replied that filing on paper remains an option. These will be

scanned to capture the image electronically, and also key data will be entered to capture the information electronically.

Ms. Johnson added that the system will be able to download political contribution information from a filer's computer system to Elections BC's system. The software will also do the arithmetic calculations for the filer.

Although a training package will be included with the software, Ms. Western asked what kind of training the parties would prefer, whether singularly or together with other parties? Mr. Stipp stated he favoured regionally based training for party representatives. Dr. West agreed.

Ms. Johnson pointed out that regional, multi-party training would not exclude training for financial agents of a specific registered party, and everyone who might be involved with financial aspects of candidates' campaigns.

Dr. West asked in the case of a registered constituency association with relatively few transactions, that the burden of financial filing be minimalized, and perhaps reduced to a single form. Ms. Western replied that a balance sheet and income statement would still be required; however, a registered constituency association need not file other forms if there has been no activity. Dr. West asked if software for electronic filing of campaign financial reports would be relatively platform-independent. Ms. Western indicated that she believed it will run on the current and earlier version of Windows, but not on a Macintosh.

[After further research following the meeting, Ms. Western advised that the software will run on Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 98 and any newer version of Windows, but not on a '386'.]

Redistribution

Mr. Roberts stated that Elections BC has made infrastructure changes to facilitate implementation of the 79 new electoral district boundaries established by the *Electoral Districts Act*, which received Royal Assent July 14, 1999. The Surveyor General's office provided legal descriptions for electoral districts. The Electoral Geography Division must now review

all legal descriptions and note all references to geographic features such as streets, creeks and rivers, entering them in a database.

The next steps involve placing the 79 new electoral district boundaries into the database and modification of those voting areas affected by redistribution. There are about 250 voting areas split by new boundaries; however, at least 70% of the remainder need to be renumbered. A conversion list and new street index are being developed. Mr. Roberts added that the new EIS does not use postal codes in the same manner as the current Provincial Voters List System (PVLS), but some system development is needed to convert postal codes into street ranges.

The Ministry of Environment's GeoData BC has been contracted to build a digital road atlas as a base for Electoral Geography's work.

Mr. Roberts mentioned another new product: an address register of all addresses in the Province tied to voting areas. Mr. Maskell noted voter records will have postal codes associated with them; however in the Street Index, postal codes will not be built in as an integral part of the range record. Mr. Patterson added that because Canada Post regularly updates postal codes, it is more expedient to obtain postal code tapes from Canada Post on an 'as needed' basis, and not duplicate efforts.

Mr. Roberts projected the following time frames:

- electoral district boundaries entered by the end of September 1999;
- conversion lists of voting areas from current to new electoral districts completed in November 1999. Voting area conversion tables will be available on paper or on disk; and
- re-numbering voting areas, voting area maps designed and proofed, and maps produced by March 2000 (a revised estimate).

Ms. Johnson added that when Elections BC gets the maps, other internal work, such as assignment of voting places, will begin. Mr. Roberts concluded that there is a book of maps of new electoral districts in 8 ½ x 11-inch format.

Dr. West noted that, because Statements of Votes are on the Internet, the data can be analyzed, but he would prefer additional geographic information, specifically the latitude and longitude co-ordinates of centre points of voting areas, which would allow him to look at clustering of results by party. He asked if Elections BC could provide this? Mr. Roberts answered that as Elections BC is moving from CAD (Computer Assisted Drafting) to GIS (Geographical Information System), this can be provided for future, but not past elections.

Dr. West further commented that the Statements of Votes are not designed for analysis 20 to 30 years after the event. He asked that electoral district maps contained in the Statements of Votes show voting areas and their numbers. Mr. Roberts replied that, with the new EIS, this too will be easier to provide.

Redistribution and Registered Constituency Associations

Ms. Western stated that, as a result of electoral district redistribution, all currently registered constituency associations must be deregistered and new constituency associations re-registered. They can be de-registered automatically or voluntarily. There can be one current (or old) and one pending (or new) constituency association for each electoral district, resulting in up to 154 registered constituency associations per registered party. She advised Elections BC is registering new ones; however, none have deregistered. Registration forms will be available on the Internet soon.

She underscored that after Writs of Election are issued for the next general election, a constituency association cannot be registered until after the election period. To be registered in good time for the next general election, constituency associations should start registering as soon as possible, and should consult party headquarters or Elections BC to ensure funds are not tied up as a result of the deregistration/reregistration process.

Possible scenarios which a registered constituency association may follow:

1) register the new constituency association
2) transfer funds from the old to the new constituency association
3) deregister the old constituency association

or

1) transfer funds to registered political party
2) deregister old constituency association
3) register new constituency association
4) transfer funds from the political party to the new constituency association

A new bank account is not necessary, as ownership of the existing account can be transferred to the newly registered constituency association before the old constituency association is deregistered.

New registrations resulting from redistribution will not be subject to restrictions such as a waiting period. They will be able to accept contributions, issue tax receipts, make expenditures and conduct transfers.

Dr. West asked: If a constituency association is deregistered as a result of redistribution, is an audit required? Ms. Western replied that a consequential amendment to the *Election Act* [section 170 (3)] contained in the *Electoral Districts Act, 1999* [section 13] provides that if an entity is deregistered due to electoral district boundary changes, it is not required to file audited financial reports. Financial statements, however, are required. The Chief Electoral Officer retains the authority to require an audit.

Other Legislative Amendments

Ms. Johnson gave an overview of the *Electoral Districts Act, 1999*, pointing out that the current 75 electoral districts will remain in effect until the House is dissolved and Writs are issued for the next general election. At that time the current 75 will be disestablished and 79 new electoral districts will be established. She also gave an overview of consequential

amendments to the *Election Act*, the *Recall and Initiative Act*, and the *Constitution Act*.

The *Election Act* allows appointment of new District Electoral Officers and their Deputies for future electoral districts prior to issuance of Writs, so Elections BC does not have to wait for an election to be called to make these appointments.

The *Election Act* also now allows for refund of nomination deposits accompanying standing nominations for electoral districts which will be disestablished. The respective nomination is also cancelled and the candidate will be required to file new nomination papers for a new electoral district. Additionally, the amendments allow the Chief Electoral Officer to accept a standing nomination for a future electoral district.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn questioned the deregistration and reregistration processes for constituency associations. Ms. Western replied that unregistered constituency associations cannot give funds, goods or services to a political party, candidate or a constituency association. They can incur expenditures only for administration of that particular constituency association, but cannot incur election expenses.

The only consequential amendment to the *Recall and Initiative Act* deals with an initiative petition in process at the time when a general election is called and an electoral district redistribution takes effect. The *Recall and Initiative Act* requires that the petitioning process be suspended until after the election. When it resumes, the initiative petition will continue on the basis of the electoral district boundaries in effect at the time the petition was issued.

Schedule 1 of the *Electoral Boundaries Act* sets out the legal names of the new electoral districts. For clarity only, hyphenated electoral district names are shown with spaces before and after the hyphen. Elections BC has assigned three-character alpha codes for electoral district names. Codes have been assigned to facilitate computerized alphabetic sorting. Attendees were advised some codes had changed although the electoral district name remained the same. Ms. Johnson reminded them that all current electoral districts will be disestablished, even those that appear unchanged by redistribution.

Enumeration

Overview of Process

Mr. Patterson stated that under section 42 of the *Election Act*, a general enumeration must be carried out in the third calendar year after a general election. The Act, however, does not state what form the enumeration is to take. As door-to-door canvassing has proved to be inefficient and creates a security risk for both enumerators and residents in today's world, a province-wide postal enumeration was undertaken.

Mr. Maskell said the enumeration began by purging the provincial Voters List of inactive records. Approximately 240,000 packages were sent to voters whose records showed they did not vote at the last two elections, and further showed no update activity since the last election. If voters do not respond to the mailing within 60 days, the *Election Act* allows for those voters to be removed from the Voters List. Thirty-nine thousand responded with updating information, and about 201,000 voter records were purged.

The second stage was a confirmation process. Address points in the federal list of voters were compared with address points in the provincial Voters List. Where a federal address was identified without a corresponding British Columbia address point, a voter registration package was sent to that address. About 200,000 were mailed.

These replies to Elections BC crossed with replies from the previous mailing to inactive voters. Toll-free information line hours were extended to handle the volume of queries, address changes and requests for additional registration forms. Updates were also received by way of electronic mail and the Elections BC Website.

A third mailing of 1.7 million enumeration packages was divided regionally into eight phases so voter registration staff could systematically process the returns. Voters whose records were recently confirmed were not targeted. Mr. Maskell noted Elections BC has received about one million replies, with 3,000 to 5,000 returns still being received each week.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn asked what the consequences would be if a package sent to a voter simply got lost? Mr. Maskell noted that Elections BC will soon undertake an analysis to profile those who have not responded. He added that as a result of the confirmation campaign, no one was has yet been removed from the Voters List. Mr. Maskell said Elections BC will purge records most clearly ascertained to be inactive, and address communities where inactive voters are likely to be.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn further stated that between the inactive voters campaign and "those people who have jumped back in", Elections BC has a very clean list that will dispel criticism. Mr. MacKay-Dunn commented on the cost of postage for the project. Mr. Maskell answered that in addition to the initial outgoing mail, a postage-paid business reply envelope is used to facilitate returns.

Ms. Johnson said there have been few complaints about the decision not to go door-to-door.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn said he figured Elections BC would never get more than about a 25% response. He added that he has gone door-to-door for the census and the party, and found that the Vancouver-Burrard area for one, has a high population turnover. Mr. Patterson said that registration in conjunction with voting is probably the best opportunity for communities like Vancouver-Burrard which are likely to be under represented on the Voters List.

Mr. Stipp suggested Elections BC issue a news release making a positive statement on the response to the enumeration campaigns. Mr. Patterson replied that this would be considered in conjunction with an upcoming voter registration confirmation card project.

Dr. West expressed concern that individuals who have not responded will be removed from the Voters List, as this is likely to be a surprise to them when they present themselves to vote on General Voting Day.
Ms. Johnson stated that Elections BC will continue to pursue addresses where no provincial voters are registered, adding that recall has created additional pressure on the state of the provincial Voters List. Voters also have an obligation to notify Elections BC of changes in their situations.

Mr. Stipp queried data-sharing with municipalities. Mr. Maskell replied that a large number use the provincial list as the starting point for their own voters lists, and share updates with Elections BC. There is no requirement for a municipality to do this; however, it is in their best interest to do so. Confirmation and change data and additions of new voters are all welcomed.

Mr. Stipp also queried the success of the Motor Voter program.
Mr. Patterson replied that the match rate between drivers' and voters' records has increased to about 80% of voter records, and anticipated to increased to 90% of voter records. Elections BC receives between 300,000 and 400,000 address updates annually as a result of Motor Voter.

Voter ID Card Project (Voter Registration Confirmation Card Project)

Mr. Patterson advised that voter identification cards were first issued following the 1989 enumeration and they are very popular. Although they have not been issued for about four years due to a significant increase in production costs, but the voting public continues to ask for them. The cards initially cost about 30 cents, but today would be about $1.00 each to produce ($.75 production costs, plus postage = about $1.00 per card). Because they showed voter addresses, whenever a voter moved, a new card had to be issued, and cards with previous addresses were seldom returned. Some were used as proof of citizenship, which is an inappropriate use.

Mr. Cech advised that the new card will confirm that the voter is registered, and the package will contain a change of address notification form. It will also contain information on electoral district redistribution. The new card has a dual purpose: to acknowledge that Elections BC has received the voter's information, and to prompt the voter to notify Elections BC of changes. He also noted that if one person in a household receives a card and another does not, they will likely contact Elections BC. The first of four mailings is targeted for October 18, 1999. A regional information campaign will follow in the respective regions about two

weeks after the mailings. The message will be that voters who have not received their cards should call Elections BC.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn questioned if there would be another mailing of Where to Vote Cards, adding that today there are too many cards in our life. He pointed out that on General Voting Day, voting officials prefer to see Where to Vote Cards over voter ID cards. He asked if the voter ID cards would be sufficient identification on General Voting Day. He and Mr. Stipp said that, if not, then the designation voter identification card is a misnomer. Mr. Cech agreed. Ms. Johnson asked if "Registration Confirmation Card" would be a better label, to which there was a positive consensus. She emphasized that voters do indeed retain these cards, as Elections BC continues to receive address changes from the original 1989 mailing.

Items from Committee Representatives

Dr. West stated that late last year he was an election observer for the presidential election in Gambon, describing this as an extremely beneficial experience, and commenting that observers' presence contributed a great deal. He proposed inviting international election observers to British Columbia elections. These observers would not be associated with a party or with Elections BC. They would comprise an impartial international panel, perhaps including Chief Electoral Officers from other Canadian Jurisdictions and retired politicians, and adjudicating issues and incidents and make non-binding statements and recommendations. He cited an incident during the 1996 general election when the NDP took issue with some of the print media, and the Green Party was prepared to intervene on behalf of the NDP and appeal to the BC Press Council.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Government of Canada has an Elections Commissioner, who, rather than the Chief Electoral Officer, handles complaints during an election. The office of Commissioner, however, is bound by statute.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn asked what created the initiative for this international commission to go to Africa, and who invited Dr. West. Dr. West replied

that he was invited by a specific non-governmental body. Mr. Patterson added that when he went to Nigeria earlier this year as an election observer, he was invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat. His mission was to observe and report subsequent to the election.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn asked Dr. West what perceived wrong he was endeavouring to address? Dr. West answered that if people know they are being observed, they will conduct themselves differently. He asked how other parties at the table felt about someone else observing and making comments during a campaign?

Mr. Stipp asked if Elections BC could further explore the role of the federal Election Commissioner? Ms. Johnson agreed to research the federal model and share information with committee representatives, adding that Elections BC receives complaints during an election and does its best to deal with them in a timely fashion.

Mr. Patterson stated he could not authorize election monitors. If the Green Party wishes, they may invite individuals for this purpose and appoint them as candidate's agents or scrutineers.

Mr. Pipe asked what happens if a registered political party is running province-wide advertising and a by-election is called? Mr. Patterson replied that the advertising would have to cease in the area of the by-election; however, it can continue in the remainder of the Province.

Ms. Johnson noted how difficult it can be to isolate a single electoral district. During the Parksville-Qualicum by-election late in 1998, the provincial government was running province-wide radio advertising regarding the Nisgàa Treaty.

Mr. Pipe pointed out that advertising bills are paid well in advance.
Ms. Johnson acknowledged that this is indeed an issue; however, as the *Election Act* refers to advertising directly or indirectly promoting, ads need not name the candidate to be considered indirect promotion.
Ms. Western added that there is no blanket answer and each case needs to be looked at.

Next Meeting

Mr. Patterson said the next meeting is likely to be called in the spring of 2000 when the redistribution process will be substantially complete. Dr. West commented that, for the record, he would prefer the committee meet more often.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Appendix E
Elections BC Expenditures and Budgeted Appropriation

1998/1999 Expenditures [1]

	$
Salaries and Benefits	2,671,000
Operating Costs	4,299,000
Asset Amortization	448,000
Other	7,000
Recoveries	(17,000)
Total 1998/1999 Expenditures	**7,408,000**

1999/2000 Budgeted Appropriation [2]

Salaries and Benefits	2,600,000
Operating Costs	1,923,000
Asset Acquisition	6,475,000
Other Expenditures	7,412,000
Total 1999/2000 Budgeted Appropriation	**18,410,000**

[1] From 1998/1999 Public Accounts

[2] From 1999/2000 Estimates

Appendix F
Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer

Section 280 of the *Election Act* authorizes the Chief Electoral Officer to make specific or general orders. During 1999, 11 Orders were made by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Order Number	Date	Order
001	Mar. 15, 1999	Grants extensions to three registered political parties for filing of Parksville-Qualicum by-election financial reports.
002	Mar. 31, 1999	Grants extensions to two registered political parties and 10 registered constituency associations for filing their annual financial reports for 1998.
003	April 30, 1999	Grants further extensions to filing deadline for annual financial reports to one registered political party and one registered constituency association.
004	April 30, 1999	Grants further extension to establish May 31, 1999 as filing deadline for Parksville-Qualicum by-election financial reports by Green Party.
005	May 31, 1999	Grants further extension to establish June 15, 1999 as filing deadline for annual financial reports by Green Party.
006	May 31, 1999	Grants further extension to establish June 15, 1999 as filing deadline for Parksville-Qualicum by-election financial reports by Green Party.
007	June 15, 1999	Grants further extension to establish Aug. 31, 1999 as filing deadline for annual financial reports by Green Party.

008	June 15, 1999	Grants further extension to establish Aug. 31, 1999 as filing deadline for Parksville-Qualicum by-election financial reports by Green Party.
009	Aug. 31, 1999	Grants further extension to establish Sept. 3, 1999 as filing deadline for annual financial reports by Green Party.
010	Aug. 31, 1999	Grants further extension to establish Sept. 3, 1999 as filing deadline for Parksville-Qualicum by-election financial reports by Green Party.
011	Dec. 01, 1999	Final Count for the Delta South by-election must not take place before the sixth day after General Voting Day, and therefore will commence on December 13, 1999.